

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/732,003	DEKONING ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shane M Thomas	2186	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Applicant's Amendment, filed 22 September 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5-8 and 11-14.
3. The drawings filed on 08 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____. 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.
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Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1,2,5-8, and 11-14 are allowable over the prior art of record. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's arguments, see pages 10-12 concerning the host device's operation and interaction with the consolidated storage array, filed 9/14/2004, with respect to independent claims 1,8,13, and 14, have been fully considered and are persuasive. All outstanding rejections of claims 1,2,5-8, and 11-14 have been respectfully withdrawn hereto.

The Examiner agrees that the prior art of record does specifically teach or suggest sending information back to a host device, which accesses data stored on a consolidated storage array, in order to configure access software as claimed by Applicant. In light of the Applicant's argument regarding the Ito reference (pages 11-12 of Amendment), the Examiner agrees that the prior art of record does not teach having the address position file (volume information) of Ito (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,359) sent back to the external device of Ito in order for the external device's data access software to access the volume of Ito. Further, Otterness (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,831) teaches away from sending volume information back to the host device (250 of figure 2) in column 2, lines 31-55. Otterness suggests that:

Together, the plurality of controllers and the plurality of data unit arrays appear as a continuous system drive to the host system.”

Therefore, it can be seen that the host device (system) 250 would not need to have had volume information sent back to it since the master controller is responsible for

accessing data from the data spans. Thus, regardless of the configuration of the data spans, the storage system appears as continuous storage.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bakke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,330,621) teaches an intelligent data storage manager able to combine physical data devices to form a logical device, thereby meeting the needs of a host device to store a data object. Bakke, however, does not teach every limitation of the Applicant's independent claims 1,8,13, and 14.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shane M Thomas whose telephone number is (571) 272-4188. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt M Kim can be reached on (571) 272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Shane M. Thomas



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